

**BOROUGH OF PENNS GROVE
COUNTY OF SALEM, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – 6:30 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
MINUTES**

STATEMENT: In accordance with Section V of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 1975, Notice of this meeting was posted on the Borough of Penns Grove Municipal Bulletin Board designed for that purpose. Notice was also posted on the Borough of Penns Grove website: www.pennsgrove-nj.org and was emailed to the official newspaper as provided by Resolution. This September 19, 2023 meeting is being held via “Zoom” online meeting platform.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Mayor LaDaena D. Thomas

INVOCATION: by Michelle Hills, Deputy Clerk

ROLL CALL: Council President Scott - present, Councilman Carter - present Councilwoman Marinaro- present, Councilman Rambo - absent, Councilwoman Debbie Scott - present, Councilwoman Sonya Worley – present
5 present - Councilwoman Worley left at 6:40 PM

BUDGET: Stephen Labb informed there will be a resolution authorizing a budget adoption, a resolution authorizing health benefits for qualified retired employees. Discussed the Transitional Aide Grant of \$550,000.

2023-9-137 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET ADOPTION

Motion to adopt by Marinaro seconded by Council President Scott. Roll Call. All affirm.

PRESENTATION: TRIAD Associates – Discussion on Energy Audit Grant by Jack Botticello. Mr. Botticello provided information on Energy Technology and Charging Stations, rebates and appliances. Mr. Botticello stated some of the ideas are solar, generation – microgrid and that funding and financing is available. The Borough Council was provided with a checklist and there would be a meeting in a couple of weeks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 17, 2021

Motion to adopt by A. Scott; Seconded by Marinaro. Roll Call. All affirm.

December 8, 2022

December 20, 2022

January 2, 2023

January 17, 2023

Motion to adopt minutes from December 8, 2022 through January 17, 2023 by Marinaro Seconded by A. Scott. Roll Call. All affirm.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Amend – Mr. Tarver due to omission of bills to add to the resolution. Additional is for Samuel Moore, LLC for Port-O-Potty and landscape work.

Motion to adopt by Marinaro; Seconded by A. Scott. Roll Call. All affirm.

RESOLUTION FOR INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION

2023-9-138 – A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FROM REMINGTON & VERNICK FOR PENN STREET (PHASE IV) RESURFACING

Motion to adopt by Marinaro; seconded by D. Scott. Roll Call. All affirm.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

2023-9-139 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RETIREMENT PLAN TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

*Will discuss and have motion in Executive Session.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Announcement by Council President Anjanette Scott – Hispanic Heritage Festival – Successful event and gratitude for the hard work and dedication and impressed by Gina, Marisol and Danny. Special thanks to her staff Sharon Williams, Ericka Walker, Steve Labb, Lieutenant Frett, Husband, Norman Tony Scott. Council members Debbie Scott and Sonya Worley. Acknowledgement of DiPaolo's, Giovanni's, Mi Hermoso Pueblo's, Sicilia's Pizza, A1 Auto, Cafeteria Lopez, Carneys Point Farmers Market, Riverfront Limousine Service, Moore's Do It All and DJ Ed. Center for Family Services, Salem County Health Department, Salem County Sheriff's Office, Rachel Women of Color Coalition, Aetna Health, Salem Medical Center, Sea-Moss Drink Lady, A's, NGS Landscape, Excelsior Lodge No. 54, F. & A.M., Coconut Guys, and Champion Trophy and Print Shop. It was a great event, and they are looking forward to next year being bigger and better.

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mayor Thomas announced exciting news for the Borough, she received a text from Governor Murphy during the day that the Borough has been noticed for the changes within the community and the growth of the area over the last 4 years. The Borough is the recipient of a \$1 (one) Million Dollar Supplemental Aid in addition to the \$550,000 Transitional Aid. The breakdown for the aid will be as follows - \$250,000 for foreclosures and demolitions to continue to dispose of abandoned and dilapidated buildings, \$500,000 for Public Works Department for equipment such as Street Sweeper, \$200,000 for Waterfront Economic Development, \$50,000 for Activation Planning Grant from Virginia Avenue to Main Street and \$500,000 for Information Technology to update the website and be able to process online payments. Following the Recovery Plan was the best thing to have been done.

Mayor stated that this is the first time that 3 years in a row there has been supplemental/transitional aid received in the Borough. The previous aid received has covered such costs as paying off debt, paid off ladder truck, waterfront pump station and the 3 new Durango's were purchased using grant money.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Carol Mincey, Penn Street – Ms. Mincey is requesting further information on Resolution 2023-9-28 regarding engineering services, she would like to know what and when it will be started.

Dena Johnson responded FY 2022 Is for Penn Street Phase IV for concrete work, ADA requirements and resurfacing. There is a meeting Thursday with the contractor and resurfacing will occur after concrete work. Explained that there are 3 different projects. Phase III is from W. Pitman to Poplar. Ms. Mincey asked about W. Pitman to Lime Street and that it did not start at the beginning, Ms. Johnson stated that is a different phase and she would not have the information as it through another engineer.

Harry, 99 Penn Street – Stated his tenant at 101 Penn Street has to deal with and they were informed the property was sold. Mr. Tarver confirmed it was sold but unknown to who and the owner will need to bring the property to code. Harry stated all are doing a really great job. Mr. Tarver asked him to speak after the meeting.

Daniel – Silver Run - Thank you for the event this weekend, it showed unity and support of each other and that this means we can accomplish anything together. Unity in Community.

Grag Martin – Carneys Point – States he has been working with regarding the property on Harmony Street currently owned by the PGCP School Board and that there are people utilizing the lot for picnics and kids hanging out there. States the School Board is voting on the property next month. Mr. Martin feels the School Board should turn the property over to the Borough as the Board received the land from the Borough and that they should not be able to sell it for a profit. He says he and Mr. Davis are 'Boots to the ground'.

Council President Scott – Wanted to let everyone know in the past there were 4 football teams for PG Twins, they are no unable to get coaches and had to refund kids that wanted to play because they could only have one team this year. There are struggling families that could benefit if their registration was covered. Specifically, there are 2 children and she wondered if they could pay the registration from the Recreation Committee budget or have a fundraiser. The fee is \$200 per player and these kids were part of the Clean Communities Event in April on Tyrone Ave, they do have a nonprofit tax ID number. Mr. Martin offered to pay part. Mayor advised that Mr. Labb would look into ways of how we can legally assist.

Ms. Dena Johnson advised that FY 2021NJDOT Grant would address improvement to W. Pitman to W. Line Street and 2022 West Pitman to W. Poplar.

Mayor provided information regarding a grocery store and that there are 2 companies in discussions regarding the property on Virginia Avenue. One of the companies would like to build apartments above the supermarket.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
2023-9-140 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter by Marinaro, Seconded by A. Scott. Roll call. All affirm.

Back to Regular Session:

Jeremy Lange asks how he can help the football team, Council President Scott suggested he contact Jazmin Bundy.

RESOLUTION No. 2023-9-139 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HEALTH BENEFITS FOR QUALIFIED RETIRED EMPLOYEES.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Council President Scott; Seconded by Marinaro. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Council President Scott; Seconded by Marinaro. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hills, Deputy Clerk

Minutes are not verbatim.